

It's time for the people's House to stop the madness; and so this week I joined with Judiciary Committee Ranking Member CONYERS to reintroduce a constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 78, to reclaim Congress and to regulate corporate expenditures.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

(Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act.

This bill strikes close to home for me and my district in Arkansas where one charter school program, the Knowledge is Power Program, or KIPP, as it is called, has had a profound impact on the lives of its students and their families.

In one of the poorest cities in America, the town of Helena-West Helena has instituted a charter school that empowers students from high poverty communities to develop the character, knowledge, and skills necessary to follow their dreams and, more importantly, learn to value a life in pursuit of knowledge and truth.

KIPP students go above and beyond what is required; and for that, our country is a better place. These students have their parents and teachers to thank. They are always accessible and always committed to their education and their well-being. The KIPP approach shows that high standards overcome the obstacles created by socioeconomic and circumstances, as evidenced by KIPP Delta's first graduating class, 100 percent of which now attend college, and the establishment of a new KIPP school in Blytheville, Arkansas.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill so children and their families all across the country have the opportunity to empower their own lives, their families, and their communities.

JOBS NOW

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has offered the American Jobs Act, a clear path forward to putting our country back to work, helping small businesses succeed and hire and providing tax relief for our workers and rebuilding America. The emphasis of the plan is immediate action that will preserve and create jobs now. It will put money into the pockets of working Americans now, and it will give businesses job-creating tax breaks now. It will provide a boost to the economy that we need now.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for Democrats and Republicans to work together and with our President to put the country

back to work. The American people literally can't afford to wait a single day more. It's time to pass the American Jobs Act now.

RESPONSIBLE CHOICES

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, in these dire financial times, government must identify what works and what doesn't, even when it comes to sex education for our kids.

The CDC released a fascinating study this year that found that two-thirds of teens, ages 15 to 17, are abstaining from sex. In fact, 70 percent of parents support abstinence until marriage for their teens.

But under this administration, we have seen a troubling 16:1 funding disparity between contraceptive-centered education and sexual risk avoidance education.

That's why last week I filed a bill, H.R. 2874, to restore fairness to the funding and direct it instead to programs which give our kids the facts about contraception without distorting them.

I am a dad of four great kids, two of them teenagers. I have a 15-year-old daughter, Kylie, and a 17-year-old son, Karsten, who may, in fact, be watching right now. Nothing is more important to me than seeing them make responsible choices. I have every confidence that they will. Now I'm just hoping the House and Senate will do the same.

JOBS

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, we are in a time of national economic crisis. There are 14 million Americans without a job. There are another 12 million who wish they could work but have given up looking altogether.

That's why last week President Obama presented Congress with an urgent proposal to create jobs and fix the economy. Republican economist Mark Zandi declared the President's plan would keep the U.S. from sliding back into the recession, add two points to the GDP, and add 1.9 million jobs. This plan is based on bipartisan proposals, and it won't add a dime to the deficit.

After 9 months of taking over the House, Republicans have not presented a single jobs bill. It's well past time for them to put politics aside and come together with Democrats to put the country back to work. With so many people suffering, we must act and we must act now.

REDUCING HURDLES TO JOB GROWTH

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi is a great place to live, work, and raise a family; and I want to keep it that way. Mississippi is a proud right-to-work State. My State has attracted and continues to attract high-tech economic development projects and advanced manufacturing facilities.

At a time when more than 14 million workers are unemployed, we must do everything possible to remove government barriers to job creation and economic growth. As South Carolina knows too well, the National Labor Relations Board is stifling job creation, and their Federal intrusion must be restrained.

The Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act will prohibit the NLRB from dictating where a private sector employer can locate. This is good for job seekers as well as job creators. Without restraint, all States, especially right-to-work States like my Mississippi, will be negatively impacted. We like to work in Mississippi and we like jobs, and we want more of them, not less.

SUPPORT AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of President Obama's American Jobs Act. As a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am especially glad to see that the President has maintained his unwavering commitment to modernizing America's infrastructure. Our roads, bridges, highways, and transit systems support millions of jobs throughout the country that are crucial to strengthening our economy.

The establishment of a national infrastructure bank is a bipartisan proposal that I have been a strong proponent of for many years. More recently, I have learned that my senior Senator is also very supportive. This bank would leverage private and capital funds to invest in infrastructure projects of a national significance. It's public and private partnerships like this that make our country succeed, and we need more of them. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

God bless the troops, God bless America, and God bless the Members of the people's House to rise above partisanship and be bipartisan in addressing the people's problems.

□ 1220

GOOD JOBS NOW

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today, members of the Progressive Caucus stood up and displayed a videotape in

which the jobs tour that we went on this summer was revealed. We showed the cities where Americans of all description stood up and said, We need jobs, good jobs, now. Americans from Detroit to Oakland and Minneapolis, Miami, all over this country, we went to talk to them face-to-face, and they told us what they wanted. They did their part by coming to tell us what they wanted.

Now it's time for us to do our part as Congress. Members of the Progressive Caucus will and are and already have introduced legislation dealing with good jobs—and good jobs now—in infrastructure, education, fair trade, and things like manufacturing. We're going to be forcing this agenda. It's what the American people expect, what they demand. And anyone who does not stand with us on this jobs agenda will be revealed to be not a friend of the American worker.

HOW TO CREATE JOBS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Last week, the President came to this House and gave an historic address in a joint session about the American Jobs Act. There were things in his proposal that I felt really good about and some that I felt not so good about. But I'm going to support the President because our country needs jobs. People in my district need jobs. This is the way to provide jobs.

You don't provide jobs by putting off EPA regulations, costing 350,000 lives by causing people to have breathing difficulties and asthma. Two friends of mine have had lung cancer and lost a lung. They may lose their life without a transplant, which also may put them in jeopardy of losing their lives. That's not the way you create jobs. You create jobs by giving people opportunities with summer youth programs and infrastructure jobs that create even more jobs. And tax breaks for small business. That's been offered. I hope we can come together in a bipartisan way.

I watched the Republican debate last night, and one of the candidates suggested it was the "Obama depression." I can't believe people are doing that. We just saw 9/11 and thought of the horrors. The unfunded wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have caused this Bush recession.

PROTECT JOBS

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, we've been talking about jobs, and we've been talking about our economy and how jobs relate to that. We must remember one thing: We are all workers. So, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that's very troubling is the fact that we don't seem to have a grasp on what the role

of the National Labor Relations Board is. That's evidenced by H.R. 2587. What the National Labor Relations Board does is simply enforces the rights of workers. We are a great economy and we are a great country because we recognize that we are all workers and that as workers we have rights to be protected. One of the rights is to act in a concerted manner. And that's what this is all about. It protects people's rights to act together if they so wish. Now what is wrong with that? That's what makes us the United States of America. That's what makes us the greatest economy of the world. And that's what makes us a country that understands that in order to be a great economy, we must never forget the workers. We must never forget their rights. And we must always protect them.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Ms. MOORE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the President has sent us the American Jobs Act, a plan to put the country back to work while it makes investments in our struggling economy.

This bill would modernize and rehabilitate 30,000 public schools; establish a desperately needed infrastructure bank; pump \$50 billion into our aging roads, bridges, railroads, and airports. In fact, we have 71,000 "structurally deficient" bridges in this country. We're falling behind the rest of the world when it comes to modern railways, roads, and schools. And this bill is of critical importance to my district. Of the Nation's cities, Milwaukee has the second-largest percentage of its workforce in the manufacturing sector. Passing this bill means jobs for my constituents making support beams for bridges, manufacturing tools, building engines, putting together construction equipment, designing and producing computers for airports; trucking, rail, and port transportation. And yes, it even means making bacon and eggs at the local diner to support these workers.

Mr. Speaker, let's put America back to work. Pass the American Jobs Act and pass it now.

AMERICAN JOBS AGENDA

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about jobs today.

The Republicans have taken us through a no-jobs winter agenda, a no-jobs spring agenda, a no-jobs summer agenda, and now we are about to enter fall. Everybody is talking about jobs but they're not really doing anything, other than blaming the President. It's been 250 days since Republicans have

had control of this body. Not one single jobs bill has passed.

Yesterday, the President gave us a specific plan, but we've already heard from some colleagues on the other side of the aisle that they will not be in support of it. Is this a part of their no-jobs agenda for the fall? It looks like it. It's certainly not leadership, and it's not governance.

PASS THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, the Census Bureau came out with new numbers on poverty in America. In 2010, 15.1 percent, which is 46.1 million Americans, lived in poverty. This is up from 14.3 percent, or 43.6 million Americans, in 2009. And 2.6 million more Americans fell into the ranks of the poor. For 2.3 percent of Americans, their incomes fell. This trend really does carry long-term and short-term consequences for our children, our families, and for our national and economic security. These are not people in Democratic districts only. These are individuals who live in Republican districts and Republican Tea Party districts and independent districts. These are people who live all over the country.

This summer, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Progressive Caucus went out and we listened to people. We helped find jobs for people. The stories that we heard were quite depressing but also reminded us of the job that we have to do. I want to just tell you one story of children who are now taking care of their parents because their parents lost a job. These children are working at minimum wage jobs, for instance, at McDonald's. This is a moral outrage. We've got to pass the American Jobs Act. Until we create jobs—and there are four individuals for one job—we need to pass H.R. 589, which would extend unemployment benefits for those who have hit the 99 wall. That's the least we can do until we create these jobs.

□ 1230

SURFACE AND AIR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2887) to provide an extension of surface and air transportation programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2887

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Surface and Air Transportation Programs Extension Act of 2011".